

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PARIS
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS FINAL, APPROVED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S
STATEMENT ON THE RETURN OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN:

BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT AMERICA IS A NATION OF NATIONS,
AND INDEED WE HAVE GROWN AND PROSPERED BECAUSE OF THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE
HAVE DRAWN COURAGE AND INSPIRATION FROM THOSE WHO HAVE
COME FROM OTHER NATIONS TO SETTLE IN AMERICA, OR TO
GIVE US THEIR HELP.

THROUGHOUT TWO CENTURIES OF COMMON HISTORY, THE
HUNGARIAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES HAVE FREQUENTLY LINKED
THEIR DESTINIES. OUR INFANT REPUBLIC, STRUGGLING IN
ITS WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, WELCOMED COL. MICHAEL KOVATS,
WHO HELPED TO FOUND AND TRAIN THE CAVALRY FORCES OF
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AND WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AT THE BATTLE OF CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA. HUNGARIAN JOURNALS OF THE DAY WERE
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FILLED WITH DETAILED REPORTS OF AMERICA'S STRUGGLE FOR
INDEPENDENCE.

SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY LATER, AMERICANS
RESPONDED TO THE NEWS OF PETOFI AND KOSSUTH AND THE
FOUNDING OF A HUNGARIAN REPUBLIC. NOT ONLY DID OUR
REPUBLIC RECOGNIZE THE HUNGARIAN REPUBLIC, BUT IT

BECAME THE ONLY COUNTRY TO ACCREDIT A DIPLOMATIC
MINISTER TO THAT GOVERNMENT.

WHEN THE REPUBLIC WAS CRUSHED, AMERICA WELCOMED WITH
OPEN ARMS THE STRUGGLE'S GREATEST HERO, LOUIS KOSSUTH.
THE IMPACT OF THIS GREAT MAN AND HIS IDEALS IS STILL
SEEN IN THE MANY AMERICAN CITIES, VILLAGES AND
COUNTIES WHICH BEAR HIS PROUD NAME.

A CENTURY AGO WORSENING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN EUROPE
AND THE PULL OF NEW LAND, NEW OPPORTUNITY AND FREEDOM
IN THE UNITED STATES BECKONED MANY PEOPLE OF HUNGARY.
INDEED, THIS FIRST GREAT WAVE OF IMMIGRATION FROM
HUNGARY TO THE UNITED STATES -- WHICH LASTED UNTIL
THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR -- BROUGHT TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF HUNGARIANS TO OUR COUNTRY. THEY BECAME
FARMERS AND SKILLED WORKERS; THEY BECAME BUSINESSMEN
AND SCIENTISTS AND LEADERS IN THE ARTS.

TWICE IN THIS CENTURY, OUR ALLIANCES BROUGHT US INTO
WORLD WARS ON OPPOSITE SIDES. BUT THE BASIC FRIENDSHIP
OF OUR PEOPLES WAS NOT ALTERED.

IN 1919, IN POSTWAR BUDAPEST, THE AMERICAN REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE ALLIED POWERS, GENERAL HARRY BANDHOLTZ,
PERSONALLY PLACED HIS OWN LIFE IN JEOPARDY AND STOOD IN
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THE PORTAL TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HUNGARY TO PROTECT
AND DEFEND HUNGARY'S NATIONAL TREASURES.

IN 1944, AS THE BATTLE LINES MOVED WESTWARD INTO
HUNGARY, THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND OTHER CORONATION
REGALIA WERE MOVED FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL PLACE OF
SAFEKEEPING IN BUDAPEST TO WESTERN HUNGARY UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF THEIR CUSTODIAL GUARD. FINALLY ON
MARCH 25, 1945, THEY WERE MOVED BY THE GUARD FROM
HUNGARIAN SOIL AND TAKEN INTO AUSTRIA. AT THE CLOSE OF
WORLD WAR II THE CROWN GUARD TURNED OVER THE CROWN AND
REGALIA TO ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY FOR
SAFEKEEPING. IN THIS WAY, OUR DESTINIES AGAIN WERE
LINKED.

WE ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFEGUARDING THE
CROWN, WHEN EVENTS PLACED THAT RESPONSIBILITY UPON US.

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WE DID SO IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THAT THE CROWN
BELONGS TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE.

THIS HISTORICAL TREASURE, WHICH HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE
IN THE HUNGARIAN NATION'S HISTORY FOR NEARLY ONE
THOUSAND YEARS, SHOULD BE IN HUNGARY FOR ITS PEOPLE
AND FOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO CHERISH.

THE RETURN OF THE CROWN REFLECTS AND ENCOURAGES IMPROVED
RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS, AND
RESPONDS TO THE NATIONAL HOPES OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE.
THE CROWN IS A SYMBOL OF THE SPIRIT AND THE FAITH AND
THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF HUNGARY. WE ALSO HOPE THAT
IT WILL FOSTER THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, TO
WHICH THE AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN PEOPLES ARE
FUNDAMENTALLY DEDICATED.

AND SO, MR. PRESIDENT, IT IS MY UNIQUE PRIVILEGE, ON
BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED
STATES, REPRESENTED HERE BY SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED
MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER
HONORED AND DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN CITIZENS, TO RETURN
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TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN AND
CORONATION REGALIA OF HUNGARY. END TEXT.

VANCE

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